

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell stack comprising:

a pair of separators;

~~an MEA~~ a membrane-electrode assembly (MEA) in which an electrolyte membrane, a catalyst layer, and a diffusion layer are laminated, and which is provided between the pair of ~~the~~ separators; and

an adhesive layer provided between the pair of ~~the~~ separators, which contacts at least an end of the electrolyte membrane, an end of the catalyst layer and an end of the diffusion layer, wherein the adhesive layer has a Young's modulus within the range of 30 MPa to ~~100 MPa~~ 50 MPa.

28. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack according to claim 27, wherein;

the electrolyte membrane has an extended portion which extends beyond the end of the catalyst layer and the end of the diffusion layer, and

a portion of the adhesive layer is provided between the extended portion of the electrolyte membrane and one of the pair of separators so as to contact a surface of the extended portion, and another portion of the adhesive layer is provided between the extended portion of the electrolyte membrane and another of the pair of separators so as to contact another surface of the extended portion.

29. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack according to claim 27, wherein;

a portion of the adhesive layer is provided between one of the pair of ~~the~~ separators and the catalyst layer so as to contact a surface of the catalyst layer; and another

portion of the adhesive layer is provided between another of the pair of ~~the~~ separators and the diffusion layer so as to contact a surface of the diffusion layer.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack ~~structure~~ according to ~~claims~~claim 27, wherein;

the adhesive layer has a thickness of 50 μm to 150 μm .

32. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 27, wherein a rigid spacer is provided in the adhesive layer.

33. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 32, wherein the rigid spacer is provided in the adhesive layer throughout a non-generation region.

34. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack according to claim 32, wherein the adhesive layer has a thickness that allows the adhesive layer to have a Young's modulus of at most ~~100 MPa~~50 MPa even if the hard spacer is provided in the adhesive layer.

35. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 27, wherein multiple cells, each of which is formed by interposing the MEA between the pair of separators, are linearly arranged in a cell stacking direction, and the fuel cell stack further comprises an adhesive layer sandwiched between two cells adjacent to each other.

36. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack according to claim 27, wherein multiple cells, each of which is formed by interposing the MEA between the pair of separators, are linearly arranged in a cell stacking direction, and a bead gasket is provided as a seal between two of the multiple cells, which are adjacent to each other, and a separator of the two of the multiple cells which contacts the bead gasket has a greater planar rigidity than a separator of another ~~cells~~cell which does not contact the bead gasket.

37. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack ~~structure~~ according to claim 33, further comprising a generally flat plate which is placed on the separator which contacts the bead gasket to increase the planar rigidity of the separator.

38. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 27, wherein the adhesive layer is provided between the separators in an entire non-power generation region.

39. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 27, wherein the adhesive layer contains rigid beads each of which has a diameter equal to or smaller than a thickness of the adhesive layer.